

Good Morning Great Falls,

My name is Jim Quick and you are listening to the inaugural episode of the Great Falls Americans podcast. We hope to acquaint you with the history of our team as well as an outlook for the 2023-24 season.

We are on the verge of the 2023-24 season beginning Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> against the Yellowstone Quake and the future is very bright for the team. As most know the team is under new management with a new owner being Matt Leaf, a 40+ year veteran of hockey leagues with most of that being on the officiating side. His son's Alex, who played his final year with us in the 2022-23 season and Aaron who will be playing his 3<sup>rd</sup> season with us will be joining him as an assistant coach and a player. Matt's plans for the team are legacy driven and community oriented which will make for a team worth supporting again.

Our team has a very diverse history from its origins in the 1950's that won the 1954 men's senior hockey crown to the 1960's beginning as the Flin Flon Bombers, 1967-1978, the Edmonton Oil Kings, 1978-1979 to the first version of the modern Americans, 1979-1980 in the Western Hockey League. The 1979 franchise moved to Spokane after the 1980 season and folded after the 1982 season.

There were a couple more versions started up and transferred between the 90's into 2012 until finally in 2014 the American West Hockey League joined the current NA3HL as the Frontier Division with the Americans going to the Silver Cup Finals in their first two years placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Sadly the 2022-23 season was not a good one with us not even qualifying for post season play.

During the off season there was a massive amount of work done to the Ice Plex in preparation for the new season as well as the return of our mascot Baldy. It looks to be a fantastic season with the work already being done and the players that have been scouted and drafted. The heating system was fixed after finding out about a busted pipe under the ice and everything has a fresh coat of paint. There are plans for more fan interaction between periods as well.

There has also been an upswing this year of the booster club activities with more support for the team and a true desire to see them succeed. There is a raffle starting which will be drawn for at the sept. 30<sup>th</sup> home game vs Badlands Sabres for a Booster Club RTIC Cooler...

52 quart ultra light RTIC Cooler

12 can soft cooler

20 oz tumblers

20 lbs of meat from Central Avenue Meats

The plan for this podcast is to give the opportunity to get to know each one of the players with a weekly highlight on an individual player to learn the who, where, and how he has come to our great city and what drives them. At some point we will attempt to have an episode with Coach Greg Sears and owner Matt Leaf for their thoughts on how the team is progressing and what the future holds for our boys.

So if you are a hockey fan and have missed rooting for your team tune in for more episodes and make your presence known at the games. If you have any ideas for the podcast to help it grow feel free to contact me through Super Chat here on PodBean.